

>>> Prep talks

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SCIENCE

- >> The SSC exam is a textbook-oriented exam, hence make sure you focus on the textbook questions (questions provided after every chapter). Do not skip any questions.
- >> Study according to the question paper pattern. The SSC board has provided details of the weightage given to every chapter. Start with chapters that carry more weightage.
- >> For objective-type questions, like 'fill in the blanks', 'match the columns', 'true or false', 'odd man out', 'co-relation', etc, textbook reading is a must.
- >> Make sure you get your definitions right. Definitions should be written word-to-word as given in the textbook.
- >> Make it a point to practice drawing neat, labelled diagrams. These help you score more marks.
- >> Practice as many sample papers as you can (two every day), including prelim papers from friends in other schools to boost your confidence and for flawless presentation.
- >> Practice all problem sums and chemical equations given at the end of the textbook.
- >> Avoid any cancellations in the paper, especially for objective questions. Also, avoid overwriting.
- >> In science papers, every answer should be written point wise. The points should be numbered one below the other.
- >> For better presentation, underline key words in the answers, and place your diagrams and chemical equations in a box. In diagrams, all labelling should preferably be restricted to one side of the diagram.

Compiled by Dr Hitesh Karis, Millesh Kothari and Shankaran Naidu, Science Department, Mahesh Tutorials

For additional tips on handling physics and chemistry, log on to www.educationtimes.com and visit 'Prep Talks' at www.educationtimes.com/preptalks

ENGLISH

The English paper can be divided into two distinct parts - textual and non-textual. The textual part has a weightage of 33 marks (two seen passages - 18 marks, two seen poetry passages - 10 marks, and one rapid reading passage - five marks). The non-textual part carries 47 marks (two unseen passages - 19 marks, unseen grammar - four marks, and writing skills - 25 marks).

PREPARATION

- >> Text: Students must read the textbook thoroughly, covering the pre-reading, comprehension questions and the vocabulary and grammar exercises accompanying every chapter. Prepare the interpretative and personal questions very well as they are not direct answers from the passage, ie, they have to be written by you. For the poetry section, learn all the figures of speech and the rhyme scheme.
- >> Grammar: Grammar must be prepared by practicing as many sentences as possible from the reference material. Learning the rules is a must too, so that unseen grammar can be attempted.
- >> Writing skills: The formats for various writing skills questions like letter, report, speech and essay must be learnt well. Prepare for common topics by reading your material. Practice is very important, as only then can you perfect your skills. Prepare all the writing skills, which have been provided after every chapter in the text.
- >> Solving papers: Solving at least three to four papers in the next one month will help with time management, as well as presentation, which is very important in language papers.
- >> Last-minute revision: The English paper is different from other subjects, as there is no rote learning. Thus, most of your preparation must be completed in advance. The best thing to do is to go through all the questions in the textbook, especially the IQ and PQ, the vocabulary, and the grammar and writing skills provided after every chapter. Lastly, when you actually write the paper, first think and then write, and not vice versa. This will ensure minimum cancellations, resulting in good presentation.

Compiled by Seema Wadkar, Head of English Department, Mahesh Tutorials

GEOGRAPHY

- >> Answers must be textual, and not in your own words.
- >> Political map and graph paper must be attached to the answer paper in the proper sequence and not at the end.
- >> Use a stencil map of India or a pie diagram to explain four-mark questions wherever required.
- >> Do not change the sequence of questions.
- >> In your map, marking the index is compulsory.
- >> Do not mix up geography/economics questions.

ECONOMICS

- >> Textual questions after every lesson are very important. These are the basic questions that the Board expects you to know.
- >> The duration of the geography and economics paper is two hours, of which the economics paper will need about 30 to 45 minutes.
- >> Study important/difficult lessons, when you are fresh. Study easy/your favourite lessons, when you are tired. This applies not just to economics, but to other subjects as well.
- >> Social studies papers should have answers written in a point-wise format.

GENERAL GYAAN

- >> Frame a timetable for each day, and follow it.
- >> Include a suitable amount of time for recreation in the timetable, and DO NOT feel guilty about it. A short break rejuvenates you.
- >> Before you start studying, keep your study material like textbooks, notebooks, notes, compass box, etc, in order. Only keep books that are necessary on the table.
- >> When you cannot concentrate, remember to get up and move. You could listen to music, go through the newspaper, have a quick snack or chat with your near and dear ones. But come back to your books as soon as possible.
- >> Practice writing a paper at 11 am because that's the time you will be writing it in the board exams.
- >> What percentage do you plan to achieve? Write it on a piece of paper and pin it up in a prominent place. Now that you know your goal, plan and study accordingly. Tell yourself, 'I will do it, I can do it!'

ALGEBRA

- The question at this stage is how you can revise 11 chapters in the stipulated time before the exam. Here are certain criteria one can follow:
- >> Knowledge of chapter wise question wise marks distribution: Go through the paper pattern of the SSC board. This will help you revise selected chapters, which can ensure you attempt the entire paper.
 - >> Practicing the art of recollection, so that revision is quicker and smarter:
 - Understand the concepts on which sums are based.
 - List down all the formulae, based on different types mentioned in the chapters.
 - As it is not possible to solve every sum due to time constraints, it is advisable to choose at least five sums of each type, and solve them without any help.
 - All sums in the paper cannot be difficult.
 - Try to solve chapter-wise papers to take your confidence to a different level.

For complete tips on acing algebra, log on to www.educationtimes.com and visit 'Prep Talks' at www.educationtimes.com/preptalks

Compiled by Samir Deolekar, Mahesh Tutorials

GEOMETRY

- >> You should study the nine "1" marked theorems. In the paper, at least two theorems (of four marks each) are bound to appear.
- >> Select the seven chapters you are most comfortable with, because there are several options available in the paper.
- >> Solve papers on the basis of the timeframe provided in the table below. In the 24 minutes you have saved, you can:
 - a. Check whether the question numbers for each question is mentioned.
 - b. Check all the calculation-based sums. Also, check whether the final answers for the sums are written.
 - c. Lastly, check the sums based on proofs, and specifically, the reasons for each step.

Compiled by Ramesh Kastinath, Mahesh Tutorials

For more extensive tips on tackling chapters in geometry, log on to www.educationtimes.com and visit 'Prep Talks' at www.educationtimes.com/preptalks

HISTORY AND CIVICS

- >> Make sure that you are thoroughly prepared with textual exercise questions (questions provided after the chapter) in history and civics.
- >> Practice writing at least three board model papers before the exams. This will help build confidence in your abilities as well as ensure you write smoothly and without errors in the paper.
- >> Self-evaluation is the key to success. After writing the board model papers, correct your own papers. Through this method, you will gain familiarity with mistakes commonly committed by you, and you can avoid similar errors in your board exams.

Time management:
60 marks = 150 minutes (2 hours 30 minutes) 1 mark = 2.5 minutes

	PAPER PATTERN	TIME ALLOTTED	TIME TO BE UTILISED	TIME SAVED
Q1	Attempt 6 out of 8	30 min	18 min	12 min
Q2	Attempt 4 out of 6	30 min	24 min	6 min
Q3	Attempt 4 out of 6	30 min	24 min	6 min
Q4	Attempt 3 out of 6	30 min	30 min	0 min
Q5	Attempt 3 out of 6	30 min	30 min	0 min
TOTAL		150 min	126 min	24 min

TEST TIPS

WITH THE SSC BOARD EXAMS CLOSE AT HAND, IT'S TIME TO GET YOUR BASICS STRAIGHT. HERE, ALONG WITH SOME GENERAL TIPS, WHICH HAVE BEEN FORMULATED TO MAKE YOUR BOARD EXAM EXPERIENCE STRESS-FREE, WE ALSO PRESENT A THOROUGH ASSESSMENT OF VARIED SUBJECTS THAT WILL ENSURE YOU MAKE YOUR MARK IN EVERY PAPER